at the highest level seeking exemption of technical/scientific posts from the purview of the DOPT instructions dated 16-5-2001 so that the shortage of manpower is met.

In pursuance of the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in WP No. 10697/040-Court on its own motion *Vs* UOI& SJ Hospital, the Ministry of Health & Fw *vide* their order No. C. 18018/23/04-H dated 9-11-04 has constituted an Expert Committee which shall examine the problems of patients, medical staff and also suggest remedical measures. The matter is subjudice.

NCW's suggestions on population policy

269. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Women (NCW) expressed their concern over the cohesive population policy of Government;

(b) if so, the complete details of the NCW's suggestions on the population policy; and

(c) action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on the suggestions of the NCW?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Substandard medicines of M/s Kooper Pharma, Delhi

270. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of medicines manufactured by M/s Kooper Pharma, Delhi were found to be substandard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir as

per the feedback available from the Drug Control Administration, Government of NCT of Delhi, only one sample of drug manufactured by M/s. Cooper Pharma,Delhi, (not M/s Kooper Pharma Delhi) had been reported to be not of standard quality during the period 2002-03.

(b) Metronidazole Tablets I.P., B No. NB2-21 was declared not of standard quality for the reason that the sample did not conform to IP *w.r.t.* test for dissolution.

(c) The licence of the firm in part in respect of manufacturing of Metronidazole Tablets IP was cancelled by the Licensing Authority, Delhi.

Progress of HIV programmes

271. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to steate:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the world's largest number of HIV infected people; and

(b) if so, the reasons for HIV/AIDS programme not making progress inspite of several international agencies donating millions of dollars into anti HIV programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. India has second highest number of people estimated to be infected with HIV the first being South Africa. Government of India is implementing a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme as a centrally sponsored scheme since 1987. During the second phase of the National AIDS Control Programme from 1999 onwards, a substantive effort has been made to upscale the services and various interventions for prevention and control of AIDS in the country.

As a result of various measures undertaken, awareness about HIV/ AIDS has increased as 76.1% of survey respondents had ever heard of HIV/AIDS and 46.8% were aware of two important methods of prevention of transmission. 58.9% of responded stated that HIV/AIDS can be prevented by consistent condom use. As a result of all these measures, low prevalence. States have remained low and moderate and high prevalence States remained in the same category and no upsurge has been seen in the spread of HIV epidemic in the country.